

and new shooters alike learn the sport.

But the weekend was also about acknowledging the club's progress.

Steffen remembers when the club was a single trap house out near the L.O. Simenstad Airport, and later when the club purchased its current 57-acre home, but could barely afford to heat the clubhouse in the winter for board meetings.

"When Rick Peterson took over as president, his goal was to pay it off," Steffen said.

Though primarily centered around trapshooting, the club has added rifle and archery ranges, the latter bringing with it a significant surge in membership in the late 1980s.

Through it all the club has been a strong part of the community, Steffen said, pointing out the many scholarships, charitable fundraisers and youth education programs the club supports.

For instance, the club raised more than \$1 million for the Variety Club Heart Hospital in the late 1980s, before that organization "went anti-gun" and discontinued the relationship.

"They're the only one

we've had do that to us," Steffen said.

For the weekend's celebratory events, the club worked with Benelli shotguns to bring in Knapp, a world renowned trick shot artist who holds three Guinness Book World Records. Knapp's performances included shooting an aspirin tablet out of the air with a .22 magnum caliber rifle and a repeat of his initial world record attempt—nine hand thrown clay targets shot from the air in less than two seconds.

Though they kept tabs of the attendance only by giving out free raffle tickets, the club figures that about 1,000 people attended the three performances.

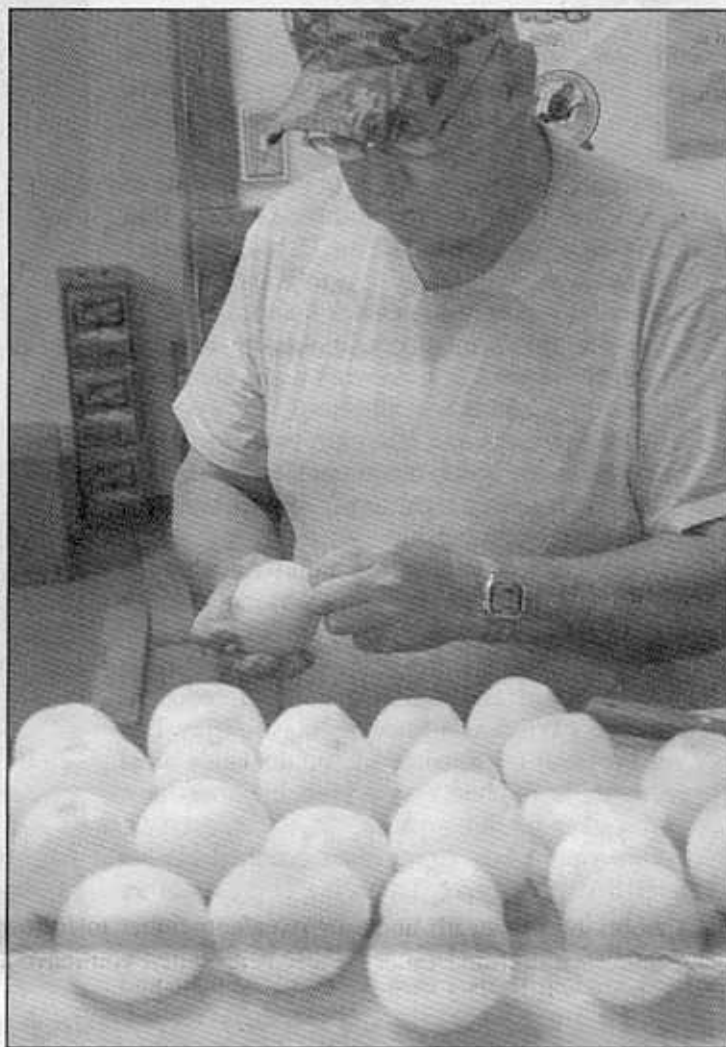
Anunziata said the club bought 800 brats and hot dogs, 500 bags of chips and countless cases of beer and pop for the event.

Steffen had seen Knapp on television and said he'd thought he would "really like to see him someday."

"Now we've got the chance to see him," he said.

But when Knapp is gone, the club will remain.

"Being around for 75 years, it's quite an accomplishment," Steffen said.



**Jerry "Fats" Steffen peels onions in preparation for the cookout at last weekend's Osceola Rod and Gun Club celebration. Steffen has been a gun club member since 1972. Photo by Kyle Weaver**